

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(14) The False King

[adapted by Deacon Roy Goetz, from [The Dialogues, Book II](#) by [St. Gregory the Great](#)]



[King Totila](#), a Gothic king, was marching in the direction of Benedict's monastery. He had heard that Benedict was a man of prophecy, so he decided to test him. He directed Riggio, his sword bearer to dress in kingly robes and to present himself to Benedict. So Riggio, dressed in the king's finery, entered the monastery gate accompanied by several attendants. As soon as Benedict caught sight of him, he called out, "Son, lay aside the robes you are wearing; they do not belong to you." Riggio and his attendants, realizing what a great man they had tried to mock, knelt down in awe. They did not look up or continue on into the monastery, but rather turned and fled back to tell the real king how quickly they had been found out.

Windows—*St. Benedict Church, Subiaco, Arkansas, USA*

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